

"Shame upon the man," she said, "that would assail the saloonist in his business, and then go to the polls and vote with him and with the rabble that gave the traffic privilege to ruin the home and destroy all that is sacred in the domestic life."

In the depth of my soul I said, how long, how long, oh Lord, will men, bearing thine image, keep silent and bow down as mammon worshippers, till all that is noble and pure and Christlike is trailed in the dust by the blighting, withering, damning rum traffic. The twentieth century is upon us. Let us as Christian men and in the name of Jehovah Jirah gird on the whole armor to fight the demon of rum until he is driven from his last hiding place, when the earth shall blossom as the rose and the curse of intemperance shall be known among us no more.

Kansas City, Mo.

#### FEMALE SUFFRAGE

G. A. RUFF

I cannot forbear expressing a few thoughts upon this subject, knowing, however, that they will be deemed by many altogether too old-fashioned for the present time. Not for the sake of controversy nor for the purpose of wounding the sensibilities of those who may entertain different ideas are they offered, but as honest convictions of truth and right.

That any woman should consider herself a slave, debarred from the exercise of any right, because she is not allowed to enter the field of political contest, to have her name associated with the strifes, the conquests, and the defeat of political parties; to have her soul trammelled and worn with the chains of political life, is, to me, as great a mystery as that any should desire this.

That woman is gifted by nature for different duties than those assigned to man cannot be denied; yet this does not prove that she is inferior to man, but only asserts her womanhood. If she were a man, and possessed even all the qualities necessary in forming a true woman, she would be an inferior man; and we should never think of embodying the mind of even the best and noblest man we ever knew in our ideal, perfect woman. Just so far as man is man and woman is woman do they rightly influence each other.

"Woman governs us." How? It is by those womanly qualities not possessed by him, that woman influences and governs man and she surrenders this influence when she lays down her womanhood and tries to be a man. "On the cultivation of the minds of women depends the wisdom of man," and women should be so educated as to make this governing influence all for good, for it is exercised in every department of life. When the mind and heart and soul of women are rightly guided and educated, when she is intellectual, pure and good, when there is perfection in womanhood, then, and not till then, will there be perfect manhood, and not

till there is greater perfection in manhood will there be a change for the better in political institutions. Female suffrage cannot accomplish this, but female influence, pure and holy, blessed of God, must do it.

When every young girl feels that there is a sacredness in marriage and fits herself for the duties of a wife before becoming one; when every wife feels it her duty "to study household good, and good works in her husband to promote," and thinks that "household good" means something more than kitchen drudgery; when every mother feels that the care of immortal souls, and that it is her work to fit for high and holy responsibilities on earth and for a home with God and angels in heaven is not slavery, then will a new era dawn in the history of the nations. Let woman see and acknowledge the beauty and harmony of the arrangement which has made her physical inferiority the very root from which spring her virtues and their attendant influences.

Removed from the actual collision of political contests and screened from the passions which such engender, she brings party questions to the test of unalterable principles of reason and religion. She is the guardian angel of man's political integrity, liable at the best to be warped by passion or prejudice and excited by the rude clashing of opinions and interests. This is the true secret of woman's political influence, the true object of her political enlightenment.

Said a young statesman to a friend who congratulated him upon his success in a public speech, "I want to hear what Mary says of it; far better to me is her approval than all the praise of statesmen." And thru this man Mary may have done far more for the nation than she could ever do thru the ballot-box. A young man surrounded by the dangers of the battlefield and the more fearful moral dangers of the camp wrote to his sister, "If nothing else can do it, your letters will make me strong to resist temptation." Another writes to a female friend, "All that I now am that is pure and noble and good, I shall owe to you." Could woman sacrifice such sacred offerings to her womanhood as these, for the sake of joining the tumultuous throng of election day? For the sake of dropping a piece of paper in the ballot-box, and dropping with it more than one of the jewels that ought ever to crown her brow?

Let woman feel that she is governing, that she is legislating, that she is voting. Let her feel, too, that if laws are corrupt and unjust, there is a failure somewhere in her work, and that the weal or woe of the nations depends upon how well or ill she does this work. Have we not a right to think that the influence of a good and lovely woman hovered about the pathway of that noble senator whose life was so pure, and when the silver chord was loosed, whose soul went away so exultant to its beautiful home?

The acknowledged rights and the privileges of woman in our country are not few. If her soul is filled with "holy thoughts and

high," she is free to utter them and give them to the world.

If visions of rare beauty float before her eyes, she has the right to make the canvas breathe them forth. And if she sees an angel in the marble struggling to be free, her hands can strike its fetters off. She has a right, if she choose, to make literature, painting, or sculpture a life work; but if she choose to enter into the marriage relation, and God gives her children, she has then her life work, and all else must be incidental. If one must be sacrificed, her children must be the poems of her life; their souls must be the canvas upon which she paints, and they must be the angels that her hands shall render free back to the God who gave them.

Here is the starting place—the mother must be the mother.

North Georgetown, Ohio.

#### IS ASHLAND COLLEGE THAT INSTITUTION?

W. A. WELTY

If Ashland College is true to Christ and his teachings, then she is that institution that may be used of God to bring success to the Brethren church. If the church continues to exist as the Brethren church, she will do so because of the fidelity of her ministry.

If I think right the Brethren church stands for as broad, if not broader, and more liberal principles than any of our sister churches. We comprehend all our Lord's teachings in our creed and confine none to the traditions of men. This all embracing principle ought to be the basis for our plea for existence as a separate church, rather than the few distinctive doctrines we hold, for there are other churches that hold to the same distinctive doctrines. If this is all we exist for why not join in with them and hold them up to the world in a more powerful way than we possibly can in separation.

I believe in these doctrines, but I do not believe in making them the only plea for our existence as a church. I do not believe in practicing these doctrines to be righteous, but let us be righteous or be fully yielded to our King's will and the observance of these negative laws of the kingdom of God will be the natural result. O that we might pass beyond the narrow confines of churchanity and stand in the light of the far-reaching principles of Christianity.

What liberty, what possibilities of achievement in real and noble life! There is no liberty in sin, no length, no breadth. Disobedience enslaves, confines and narrows human life. Sin is selfishness, but where the Spirit of Christ is there is liberty, infinite height and depth, unlimited possibilities for the development of all that is great, noble and enduring in man. We need to be taught in all the truths that make up Christianity. Those are not to be found alone in a few distinctive doctrines of any church. Man can not live by those alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. While the Bible is supremely His rev-